

Message

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on behalf of Burke, Thomas [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=39FFC3DD34EA495B9A31E61B778FBBEC-BURKE, THOM]
Sent: 12/14/2016 2:38:16 PM
To: ORD-ALL Feds and NonFeds and RSLs [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c735272eef941588aefd9a05ed28823-ORD-ALL Feds and NonFeds and RSLs]
Subject: ORD Leadership In Transition

Dear ORD,

As we transition to the next Administration, we are committed to making sure our science and our people are well supported so that we can continue to produce the science needed to safeguard our environment and public health.

The decision on who will serve as the Acting AA whenever there is a vacancy is always the President's decision. Both the current President and, after January 20th, the new President, have the authority to designate someone to serve as the Acting AA should there be a vacancy. The law does establish a default person to serve as the acting official for a PAS (Presidential appointee in a position requiring Senate confirmation) position in case the President does not take action to designate another individual, and that default person is the person who serves as the "first assistant" to the PAS position. In ORD, the first assistant position is currently the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science position, and, absent action by the President to designate someone, Dr. Robert Kavlock will be Acting AA for any period when the AA position is vacant. It is important to remember that any time as Acting AA could be a matter of days or a matter of months, and we will be prepared for all of the different possibilities.

Having the right leaders in place is critical to ensuring that our organization is best positioned to support the next Administration. There is probably no one person who is better qualified to take on this role than Bob. His scientific expertise, innovative spirit, and the team he has built have catapulted this organization into a world class scientific institution. Chris Robbins and Mary Ellen Radzikowski have agreed to support Bob and ORD by continuing to act as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management and the Associate Assistant Administrator respectively. They have provided the leadership needed to create a high performing and transparent organization.

To round out the team, our plan is for Dr. Bruce Rodan to come back to ORD after six years at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) as the Associate Director for Science, reporting to the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science. In that role, Bruce would act as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science while Bob is acting AA.

Many of you already know Bruce through his years at NCEA and OSP, prior to serving as the Assistant Director for Environmental Health at OSTP. Bruce is a physician with Masters Degrees in Environmental Studies and Public Health and a Fellow with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. While at OSTP, Bruce lead and/or engaged in a broad variety of White House and interagency priority actions, including advancing chemical toxicity research and occupational and environmental health, coordinating the President's initiative to improve pollinator health, responding to public health threats such as Ebola and Zika, fostering open innovation challenges to mitigate sources of water pollution, and supporting research on climate change and human health, ecosystem services, drinking water quality, and energy-sector technologies.

The strength of our leadership team both in the front office and all of ORD gives me confidence that we will continue to be a pre-eminent environmental and public health research organization.

Thomas Burke
Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Research and Development